

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 15-20, 23, 24, 27 and 28. With entry of this Amendment accompanying the request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, Applicant amends claims 1, 9, 12-14, 21, 22, 25 and 26. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14, 21, 22, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eitaki et al. (US 5278348). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to an extension board that enables expanded tone colors and functions without the need for other devices to be connected to a tone generator. Amended claim 9, for example, recites an extension board comprising a storage device for storing pattern information representing a prescribed pattern and a “central processing unit.” The central processing unit reproduces “musical tones in accordance with the pattern information stored in the storage device” Applicant has similarly amended claims 1, 21, 22, 25 and 26 and dependent claims 12-14 to recite a “central processing unit.”

The Examiner’s office action for the rejected claims is based on the use of the term “reproducing device” and whether Eitaki’s ROM/RAM card 12 – which the Examiner contends is an extension board – is a “reproducing device.” In view of Applicant’s amendment to the term “central processing unit,” Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is now moot.

In the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant respectfully submits that that Eitaki’s card 12 does not have a central processing unit for reproducing musical tones. The card 12, as disclosed by Eitaki in Col. 5, lines 22-40, contains a ROM and/or a RAM for storing sequence information and data. These are well-known memory devices devoid of the circuitry found in central processing units. Eitaki’s card is thus a device for storing – not processing – information and data. To the extent that the Examiner may contend the storage of sequence information somehow transforms the storage device into a sequencer (see page 5 of the Office Action),

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate where Eitaki discloses that card 12 has the circuitry of a central processing unit.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant is submitting herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 with six references. Applicant is also submitting a partial translation of selected portions of a Japanese office action citing the six references. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the references cited in the Form-PTO 1449 and to make them of record.

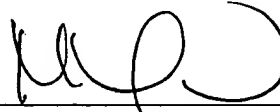
If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032014800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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